Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 288753 ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 /023 R

66011

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P 030236Z DEC 77

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 288753

GENEVA FOR PHELAN, AND US TEXTILE TEAM

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO TAIPEI FROM SINGAPORE DEC 02:

QUOTE UNCLAS SINGAPORE 5298

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: ETRD, SN, US

SUBJ: TEXTILE BILATERALS

REF: STATE 286079

- 1. GOS AGREES TO NEGOTIATIONS WEEK OF JAN. 30, 1978. PLEASE FORWARD NAMES OF USDEL WHEN AVAILABLE.
- 2. GOSDEL HEAD TAN ALSO ASKS THAT WE PROVIDE, IF POSSIBLE, LIST OF ITEMS ON WHICH US WILL PROPOSE SPECIFIC LIMITS. COMMENT: IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION 12/2, TAN SEEMED TO INDICATE THAT HE HAD ACCEPTED IDEA OF LESS-STRUCTURED AGREEMENT. REFTEL PARA 2 WAS GARBLED IN TRANSMISSION--SERVICE NOT YET RECEIVED--BUT WE WILL APPROACH TAN ON SUBJECT UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 02 STATE 288753

OF INTERIM AGREEMENT UPON RECEIPT OF DEPT'S FULL INSTRUCTIONS. END COMMENT.

3. PRESS HAS CARRIED COMPLAINTS BY HEAD OF SINGAPORE GARMENT MANUFACTURERS ASSN. THAT HONG KONG FIRMS ARE MOVING INTO SINGAPORE IN ORDER TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EEC QUOTA AVAILABILITY HERE. OWNER OF ONE OF

TEN HK FIRMS HERE REPLIED QUOTE LOGICALLY THAT THEY CERTAINLY WOULD NOT MANUFACTURE IN SINGAPORE IF THEY COULD NOT SELL THE OUTPUT. THE DAILY NEWSPAPER "NEW NATION" COMMENTED: "THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT BOARD CONFIRMS THAT GARMENT MANUFACTURERS ARE FREE TO COME AND SET UP FACTORIES HERE. FINDING OVERSEAS MARKETS IN THESE PROTECTIONIST TIMES IS A DIFFERENT MATTER... MANUFACTURERS ALREADY IN PRODUCTION HERE WILL SIMPLY HAVE TO FACE UP TO THE POSSIBILITY OF YET MORE COMPETITION. THEY HAVE A HEADSTART...FURTHER CONCESSIONS SUCH AS EXCLUSION OF ADDITIONAL LOCAL COMPETITION WILL AMOUNT TO MOLLYCODDLING...ESPECIALLY IN THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY, AMONG THE HARDEST HIT BY PROTECTIONISM, FORCES THAT HELP TRIM FLABBINESS SHOULD BE WELCOMED, NOT SPURNED." HOLDRIDGE UNQUOTE VANCE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

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Concepts: TEXTILES, NEGOTIATIONS, TRADE AGREEMENTS

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Disposition History: n/a
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